

Will implementing the bill actually extend the close date of WIPP, or will it just keep shipments at a higher rate until the close date?

H.R. 2367 would not extend the close date of WIPP, which is scheduled for 2035, but would increase shipments for at least five years. The bill would provide an environmentally sound disposal pathway for about 4,000 cubic meters of waste that currently has no place to go beyond temporary storage. In addition, the impact of the bill is to stabilize the WIPP workforce for a longer period of time to maintain the unique skills needed to continue the project's national cleanup mission.

How many jobs are created by WIPP?

Direct: About 1,200

Current: Total WIPP employment is about 1,200. The largest employer, URS Washington TRU Solutions (WTS), which manages and operates WIPP, is down to about 719 employees, following a recent voluntary separation program in FY11. Future budget cuts in upcoming fiscal years put those numbers further at risk.

What kind of economic benefits are there to the Carlsbad community: WIPP is the largest employer overall in Carlsbad, New Mexico. WTS salaries are a major driver in the local economy in terms of mortgages, automobile purchases and other spending. In FY10, about 20 percent of WTS procurement spending was done in southeast New Mexico, infusing some \$29 million into the local economy. In the state as a whole, that number grows to \$68 million.